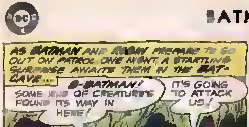

DC
SUPERMAN-BATMAN COMICS
SEPT
NO 142
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
10¢
BATMAN
"RULER of the BEWITCHED VALLEY!"
FOOLS! YOU WERE WARNED OF MY POWERS! NOW, MY CREATURE WILL DESTROY YOU!

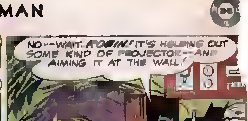
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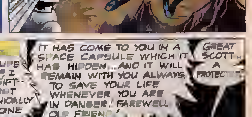

AS BATMAN AND ROBIN PREPARE TO GO OUT ON PATROL ONE NIGHT, A STARTLING SURPRISE AWAITS THEM IN THE BAT-CAVE...
SOME KIND OF CREATURE'S FOUND ITS WAY IN HERE!
B-BATMAN!
IT'S GOING TO ATTACK US!

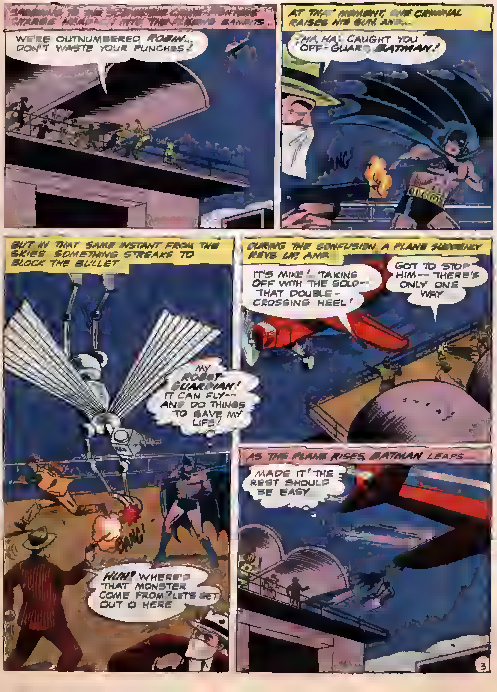

NO!--WAIT, ROBIN! IT'S HOLDING OUT SOME KIND OF PROJECTILE--AND AIMING IT AT THE WALL!

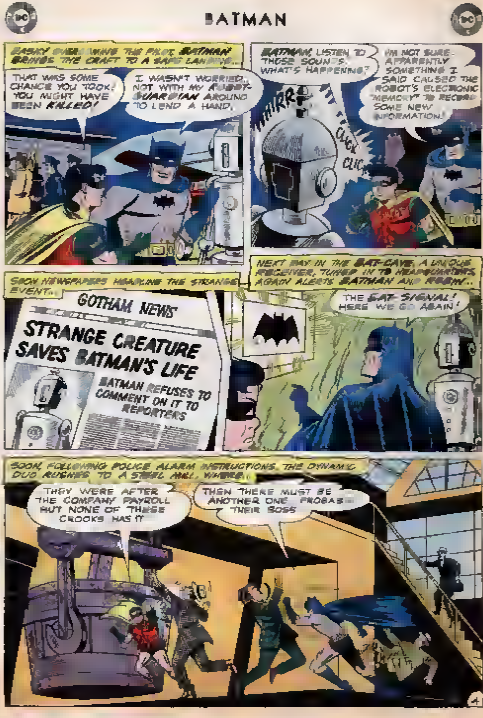

INSTANTLY, AN AMAZING FILM IS PROJECTED...
WHY- THAT'S TAL ONE, THE ALIEN WE ONCE HELPED ON HIS NATIVE PLANET!
BATMAN, IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR PAST HELP, I HAVE SENT YOU A GIFT-A ROBOT! THIS ROBOT HAS BEEN ELECTRONICALLY CONDITIONED TO DO ONE THING-PROTECT YOUR LIFE!

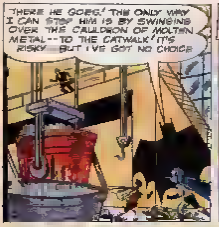

IT HAS COME TO YOU IN A SPACE CAPSULE WHICH IT HAS HIDDEN. AND IT WILL REMAIN WITH YOU ALWAYS TO SAVE YOUR LIFE WHENEVER YOU ARE IN DANGER. FAREWELL OUR FRIEND!
GREAT SCOTT!
A PRIZE!

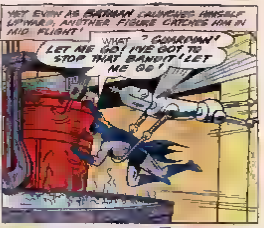

I CAN'T HAVE A SO-CALLED GUARDIAN AROUND TO INTERFERE WITH MY CRIME FIGHTING ROBOT.. GO HOME! I DON'T NEED YOU! GO HOME!

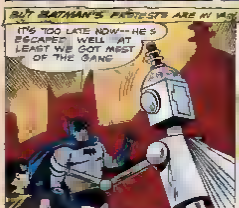

LATER IN PATRIN, THE BATMOBILE POLICE RADIO BLARES AN ALARM...
ROBBERS STEALING GOLF EQUIPMENT AT GOTHAM AIRPORT!
THAT'S FOR US... BATMAN AIRPORT IS RIGHT NEARBY!

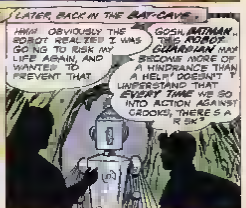

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED ROBIN... DON'T WASTE YOUR PUNCHES!
AT THE MUSEUM, THE CARNIVAL CAUSES HIS GUN JAM...
AHA, MAL CAUGHT YOU OFF-GUARD BATMAN!
BUT IN THAT SAME INSTANT FROM THE SKIES SOMETHING STREAKS TO BLOCK THE BULLET
DURING THE CONFUSION, A PLANE SUDDENLY REVS UP AND...
IT'S MIKE! TAKING OFF WITH THE GOLD— THAT DOUBLE CROSSING HEEL!
GOT TO STOP HIM— THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY
MY ROBOT BATMAN! IT CAN FLY— AND DO THINGS TO SAVE MY LIFE!
BANG!
HUH? WHERE'S THAT MONSTER COME FROM? LET'S GET OUT O' HERE
AS THE PLANE RISES, BATMAN LEAPS...
MADE IT! THE REST SHOULD BE EASY
3

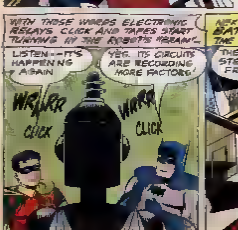

EASILY OVER-WHELMING THE PUNY BATMAN BRINGS THE CRAFT TO A SAFE LANDING...
THAT WAS SOME CHANCE YOU TOOK! YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED!
I WASN'T WORRIED NOT WITH MY ROBOT-GUARDIAN AROUND TO LEND A HAND.
BATMAN LISTEN TO THESE SOUNDS WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I'M NOT SURE... APPARENTLY SOMETHING I SAID CAUSED THE ROBOT'S ELECTRONIC "MEMORY" TO RECORD SOME NEW INFORMATION!
WHIRR
CLICK
CLIK
SOON NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE THE STRANGE EVENT...
GOTHAM NEWS
STRANGE CREATURE SAVES BATMAN'S LIFE
BATMAN REFUSES TO COMMENT ON IT TO REPORTERS
NEXT DAY IN THE BAT-CAVE, A UNIQUE REJECTER, TUNED IN TO WEAK SIGNALS, AGAIN ALERTS BATMAN AND ROBIN..
THE BAT-SIGNAL! HERE WE GO AGAIN!
SOON, FOLLOWING POLICE ALARM INSTRUCTIONS, THE DYNAMIC DUO RUSHES TO A STEEL MILL. WHERE...
THEY WERE AFTER THE COMPANY PAYROLL BUT NONE OF THESE CROOKS HAS IT
THEN THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ONE. PROBABLY THEIR BOSS
4

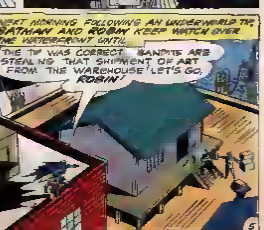

THERE HE GOES! THE ONLY WAY I CAN STOP HIM IS BY SWINGING OVER THE CAULDRON OF MOLTEN METAL -- TO THE CATWALK! IT'S RISKY -- BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE

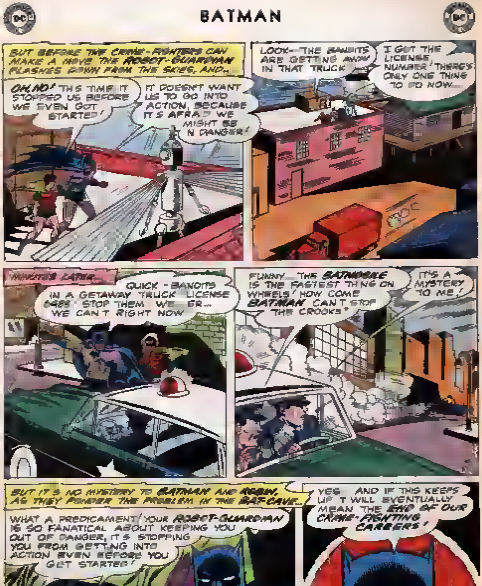

JUST EVENS AS BATMAN LAUNCHES HIMSELF UPWARD, ANOTHER FIGURE CATCHES HIM IN MID-FLIGHT!
WHAT ? GUARDIAN!
LET ME GO! I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT BANDIT! LET ME GO!


BUT BATMAN'S PROTESTS ARE IN VAIN!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW -- HE'S ESCAPED. WELL AT LEAST WE GOT MOST OF THE GANG


LATER, BACK IN THE BAT-CAVE...
HMM! OBVIOUSLY THE ROBOT REALIZED I WAS GOING TO RISK MY LIFE AGAIN, AND WANTED TO PREVENT THAT
GOSH, BATMAN... THIS ROBOT GUARDIAN MAY BECOME MORE OF A HINDRANCE THAN A HELP! DOESN'T I UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY TIME WE GO INTO ACTION AGAINST CROOKS, THERE'S A RISK?


WITH THOSE WHEELS ELECTRONIC RELAYS CLICK AND TAPES START TURNING IN THE ROBOT'S "BRAIN"...
LISTEN -- IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN
YES, ITS CIRCUITS ARE RECORDING MORE FACTORS!
WHIRR
CLICK
WHIRR
CLICK


NEXT MORNING, FOLLOWING AN UNDERWORLD TIP, BATMAN AND ROBIN KEEP WATCH OVER THE WATERFRONT UNTIL...
THE TIP WAS CORRECT! BANDITS ARE STEALING THAT SHIPMENT OF ART FROM THE WAREHOUSE! LET'S GO, ROBIN!


BUT BEFORE THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CAN MAKE A MOVE THE ROBOT-GUARDMAN FLASHES DOWN FROM THE SKIES, AND...
OH, NO! THIS TIME IT STOPPED US BEFORE WE EVEN GOT STARTED!
IT DOESN'T WANT US TO GO INTO ACTION, BECAUSE IT'S AFRAID WE MIGHT BE IN DANGER!
LOOK—THE BANDITS ARE GETTING AWAY IN THAT TRUCK
I GOT THE LICENSE NUMBER! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW...
MINUTES LATER...
QUICK - BANDITS IN A GETAWAY TRUCK LICENSE 4W5R STOP THEM... WAIT—WE CAN'T RIGHT NOW!
FUNNY... THE BATMOBILE IS THE FASTEST THING ON WHEELS! HOW COME BATMAN CAN'T STOP THE CROOKS?
IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME!
BUT IT'S NO MYSTERY TO BATMAN AND ROBIN AS THEY PONDER THE PROBLEM IN THE BAT-CAVE...
WHAT A PREDICAMENT! YOUR ROBOT-GUARDMAN IS SO FANATICAL ABOUT KEEPING YOU OUT OF DANGER, IT'S STOPPING YOU FROM GETTING INTO ACTION EVEN BEFORE YOU GET STARTED!
YES... AND IF THIS KEEPS UP IT WILL EVENTUALLY MEAN THE END OF OUR CRIME-FIGHTING CAREERS!

COULDN'T WE COUNTER-COMMAND ITS ORDERS OR ORDER IT BACK TO ITS HOME PLANET?

IMPOSSIBLE! THE ROBOT CAN ONLY FOLLOW ITS ORIGINAL ORDERS FROM TAL-PARE.. AND WHILE IT HERE IT KEEPS APING TO ITS ELECTRONIC BRAIN-- MORE DATA FOR IT TO KEEP UP FROM ANY POSSIBLE DANGER!

THEN-- WHAT'LL WE DO?

I DON'T KNOW-- I JUST DON'T KNOW...

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT..

THERE'S THE ROBOT-- CIRCLING OVERHEAD AS ALWAYS

ROBIN-- YOU STAY HERE! I'M GOING INSIDE THE SHED!

REACTING AUTOMATICALLY, THE ROBOT GUARDIAN TOSSES SARGH AWAY! THE POSSIBLE DANGER TO BATMAN-- BUT AS ITS TALONS SINK INTO THE BOX, STRIKE A SPARK..

TENSE MINUTES ELAPSE BEFORE THE CAPED FIGURE FINALLY EMERGES FROM THE SHED..

ROBIN! THE TNT GANG CACHED ITS EXPLOSIVES IN THIS SHED! HERE'S A BOX OF THE STUFF!

IT'S JUST AS I FIGURED

CLUK CLUK!

BOOM!

BATMAN! OH NO NO!



ADVERTISEMENT

Tootsie Roll makes HISTORY!

The General who posed with one hand in his vest
Was Napoleon Bonaparte
He really was holding a Tootsie Roll
Which he always kept close to his heart...

AMERICA'S FAVORITE CANDY!

Tootsie Roll

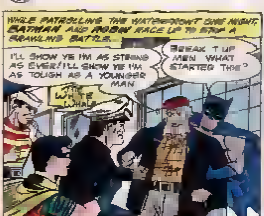
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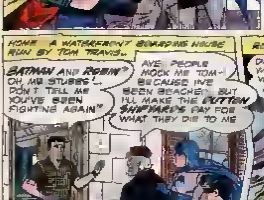
The RIGHT to be DIFFERENT!

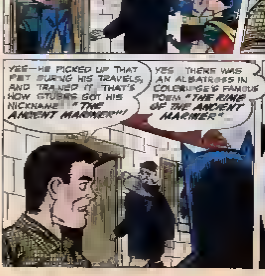


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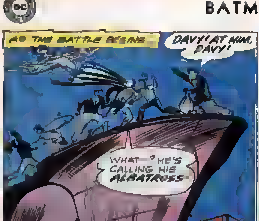

BATMAN
ROBIN
THE CRIMES of the ANCIENT MARINER
TO SEAMEN IT'S OLDEN DAYS, THE ALBATROSS WAS A BIRD OF ILL OMEN... BUT NOW THE OLD SUPERSTITION SEEMS TO COME TRUE, AS AN ALBATROSS HOVERS OVER BATMAN AND ROBIN! PERPETUATING EVIL AND PIRACY IT BRINGS THE CAPED CRIME FIGHTERS INTO A STRANGE MYSTERY AS THEY BATTLE—
ATTACK, DAVY... ATTACK BATMAN!
GREAT SCOTT! THE ANCIENT MARINER IS OWNERSHIP HIS HUGE ALBATROSS AT ME!
BOB KANE

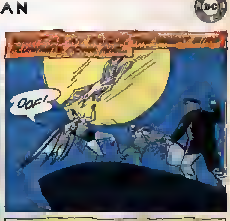

WHILE PATROLLING THE WATERFRONT ONE NIGHT, BATMAN AND ROBIN RACE UP TO STOP A BRAWLING BATTLE.
I'LL SHOW YE I'M AS STRONG AS EVER! I'LL SHOW YE I'M AS TOUGH AS A YOUNGER MAN
BREAK IT UP MEN! WHAT STARTED THIS?
WE WERE JUST TEASING HIM A BIT WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THE ANCIENT MARINER LIT INTO US!
HMM. COME ON, OLD-TIMER, WE'LL TAKE YOU HOME!

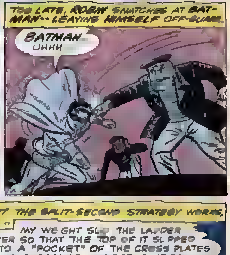

HOME A WATERFRONT BOARDING HOUSE RUN BY TOM TRAVIS...
BATMAN AND ROBIN! OH, MR. STUBBS! DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING AGAIN!
AYE, PEOPLE MOCK ME TOM-I BECAUSE I'VE BEEN BEACHED BUT I'LL MAKE THE DUTTON SHIPYARD'S PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO ME
RUSHING INTO THE HOUSE TOM TRAVIS WATCHES SOMETHING FROM STUBBS
HERE, MR STUBBS MARY JONES HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU NOW WHY DON'T YOU GO H AND GET SOME SLEEP?
GREAT SCOTT! THAT S SHE IT'S AN ALBATROSS!


YES—HE PICKED UP THAT PET DURING HIS TRAVELS, AND TRAINED IT. THAT'S HOW STUBBS GOT HIS NICKNAME "THE ANCIENT MARINER!"
YES. THERE WAS AN ALBATROSS IN COLERIDGE'S FAMOUS POEM "THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER."
WHAT'S HE GOT AGAINST THE DUTTON SHIPYARDS?
HE WORKED FOR THEM TAKING NEWLY LAUNCHED CRAFT ON TEST RUNS BUT RECENTLY THEY PENSIONED HIM OFF SAYING HE WAS TOO OLD!

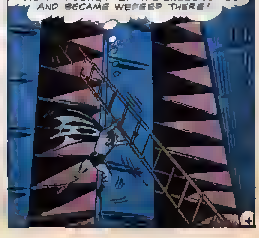

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM... HE SEEMS TO BE BROODING ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME! I'M AFRAID IT'S AFFECTING HIS WORK!
WELL—MAYBE I CAN HELP FIND HIM!
ANOTHER JOB! MEANWHILE, KEEP IN TOUCH—LET ME KNOW HOW HE'S GETTING ALONG!
BATMAN IS SOON TO FIND IT—FOR NEXT EVENING, WHEN THE BAT-SIGNAL SUMMONS ROBIN AND HIM TO PRICE HEADQUARTERS...
TONIGHT, STUBBS SHOWED UP—BUT HE KNOCKED ME OUT! WHEN I CAME TO, HE WAS GONE—WITH HIS ALBATROSS!
TRAVIS? WHAT'S WRONG?
SINCE HE WAS GOING TO GET REVENGE ON THE BUTTON SHIPYARDS, I TRIED TO REASON WITH HIM—
LOOK—THERE IS STUBBS GOLLY... THE WAY HE'S DRESSED HE MUST THINK HE REALLY IS THE ANCIENT MARINER!
LOOK—CIRCLING OVERHEAD... THE ALBATROSS!
HMM... IN OLDEN DAYS, SUPERSTITIOUS SAILORS BELIEVED THAT WHEN AN ALBATROSS HOVERED OVERHEAD, BAD LUCK FOLLOWED! I'LL BET STUBBS RELEASED IT AS AN OMEN!
GREAT SCOTT! YES—I'M AFRAID STUBBS' MIND HAS CRACKED!
STUBBS! STOP! WE WANT TO HELP YOU!
FOOL! DO YE THINK YE CAN TRICK THE ANCIENT MARINER? AT 'EM, ME HEARTIES! HEAVE 'EM DOWN!
HE'S GOTTEN SOME WHARF RATS TO THROW UP WORK—THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONES WHO PHARED PHOUL—AND THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE THEIR GETAWAY BY WAY OF THE WATERFRONT! WE CAN HEAD THEM OFF!

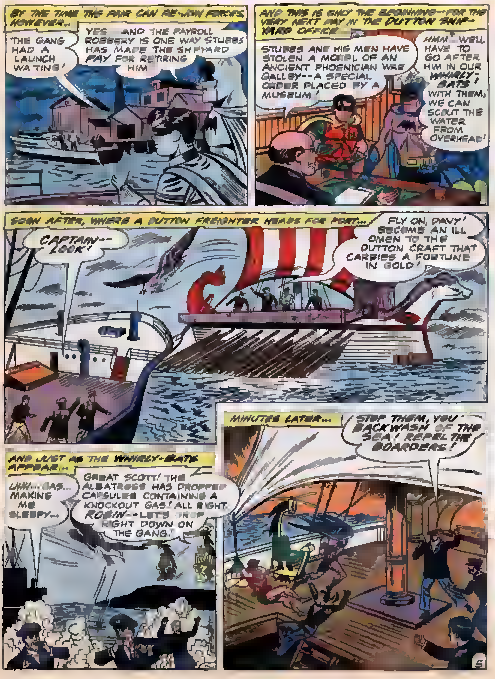

AS THE BATTLE RAGES...
DAVY! AT HIM, DAVY!
WHAT? HE'S CALLING HIS ALBATROSS!


AND AS A FINAL BLOW FELLS THE LAST GIANT FLUNKIE, COMES...
OOF!


TOO LATE, ROBIN SHUTTLES AT BATMAN--LEAVING HIMSELF OFF-GUARD!
BATMAN UHHH


BUT EVEN AS HE FALLS, BATMAN REACHES OUT A HAND, GRASPING THE RUNG OF A LADDER...
IF THIS FAILS I'M A GONER!


BUT THE SPLIT-SECOND STRATEGY WORKS, AS --!
MY WEIGHT SLID THE LADDER OVER SO THAT THE TOP OF IT SLIPPED INTO A "POCKET" OF THE CROSS PLATES AND BECAME WEDGED THERE!


BY THE TIME THE PAIR CAN RE-JOIN FORCES, HONEYDEW...
THIS GANG HAD A LAUNCH WAITING!
YES... AND THE PAYROLL ROBBERY IS ONE WAY STUBBS HAS HATE THE SHYARD PAY FOR RETIRING HIM
AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING—FOR THE VERY NEXT DAY IN THE DUTTON SHIP-YARD OFFICE...
STUBBS AND HIS MEN HAVE STOLEN A MODEL OF AN ANCIENT PHOENICIAN WAR GALLEY—A SPECIAL ORDER PLACED BY A MUSEUM!
HMM! WELL HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM IN OUR WHIRLEY! AS WITH THEM, WE CAN SCOUT THE WATER FROM OVERHEAD!
SOON AFTER, WHERE A DUTTON FREIGHTER HEADS FOR PORT...
CAPTAIN—LOOK!
FLY ON, DAVY! BECOME AN ILL OMEN TO THE DUTTON CRAFT THAT CARRIES A FORTUNE IN GOLD!
AND JUST AS THE WHIRLEY-BEATS APPEAR...
UHH—GAS... MAKING ME SLEEPY...
GREAT SCOTT! THE ALBATROSS HAS DROPPED CAPSULES CONTAINING A KNOCKOUT GAS! ALL RIGHT, ROBIN—LET'S HOP RIGHT DOWN ON THE GANG!
MINUTES LATER...
STOP THEM, YOU BACKWASH OF THE SEA! REPEL THE BOARDERS!

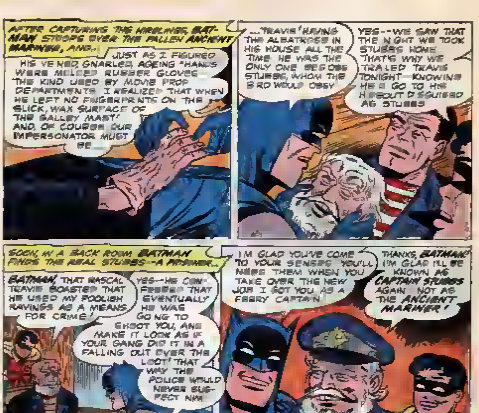

NOT THIS TIME, STUBBS! YOUR PIRACY DAYS ARE OVER!

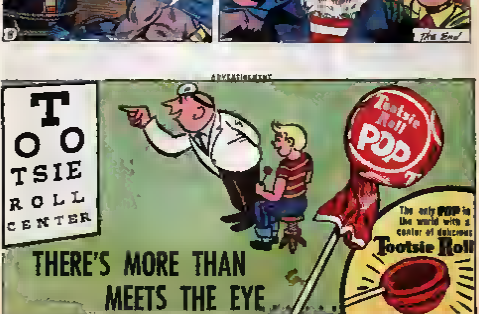

YE THINK SO, BATMAN? I DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY!


GRABBING AN AXE, THE ANCIENT MARINER PARTS THE TAUT ROPE OF THE CATAPULT, HURLING A GIANT SPEAR, AS THAT--
HE'S RELEASED! THE GIANT SPEAR! WHY?... SURELY HE DOESN'T EXPECT IT TO PIERCE THE STEEL HULL OF THE FREIGHTER!
THWAK!


BUT, TO BATMAN'S AMAZEMENT--
OH, NO! THE SPEARHEAD CONTAINED AN EXPLOSIVE! COME ON, ROBIN--THAT FREIGHTER WILL SINK WITH ITS UNFORTUNATE CREW UNLESS WE MAN ITS PUMPS--FAST
BOOM
SO, WHILE THE ANCIENT MARINER PUTS IN A WAITING LAUNCH, BATMAN AND ROBIN COMPLETE THEIR RESCUE MISSION--AND LATER...
HMM. VERY INTERESTING, ROBIN--NOW I KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE ANCIENT MARINER... BUT FIRST WE'VE GOT TO BUY A SACKFUL OF FISH!
FISH? I DON'T GET IT!


WHAT IS BATMAN PLANNING? THAT SAME NIGHT, IN THE HIDEOUT OF THE ANCIENT MARINER...
WELL, CAPT'N— YOU GOT ANOTHER JOB PLANNED FOR US?
AYE, THAT I HAVE— WE'LL UP ANCHOR TONIGHT, AND—
GUESS AGAIN, MR. MARINER! TONIGHT YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN DRYDOCK!
EH—? BATMAN AND ROBIN!
DAVY! AT 'EM, DAVY!
BUT AS THE BIRD CRIMES SWOOPING DOWN...
HERE, DAVY— KEEP YOURSELF BUSY GORGING THESE FISH!
WHAT? HE WAS READY FOR DAVY THIS TIME!
DESPERATELY THE CORNERED CRIMINAL REACHES FOR A WEAPON— BUT BATMAN'S FIST MOVES SWIFTLY.
THE END OF THE ANCIENT MARINER'S VOYAGE INTO CRIME!


AFTER CAPTURING THE HIDEOUS BATMAN STEPS OVER THE FALLEN ANCIENT MARINER, AND...
JUST AS I FIGURED HIS VENEID GNARLED, AGEING HANDS WERE MELDED RUBBER GLOVES THE KIND USED BY MOVIE PROP DEPARTMENTS. I REALIZED THAT WHEN HE LEFT NO FINGERPRINTS ON THE SLICK, WAX SURFACE OF THE GALLEY MAST. AND, OF COURSE OUR IMPERSONATOR MUST BE
TRAVIS' HAVING THE ALBATROSS IN HIS HOUSE ALL THE TIME HE WAS THE ONLY ONE HE'D DISS STUBBS, WHOM THE B'RD WOULD OBEY
YES--WE SAW THAT THE NIGHT WE TOOK STUBBS HOME. THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO PUT TRAVIS AG STUBBS
SOON, IN A BACK ROOM BATMAN FINDS THE REAL STUBBS IMPRISONED...
BATMAN, THAT WASCAL TRAVIS BOASTED THAT HE USED MY FOOLISH RAVINGS AS A MEANS FOR CRIME
YES--HE CONFESSED THAT EVENTUALLY HE WAS GOING TO SHOOT YOU, AND MAKE IT LOOK AS IF YOUR GANG DID IT IN A FALLING OUT OVER THE LOOT! THAT WAY THE POLICE WOULD NEVER SUSPECT HIM
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME TO YOUR SENSES. YOU'LL MISS THEM WHEN YOU TAKE OVER THE NEW JOB I GOT YOU AS A FERRY CAPTAIN
THANKS, BATMAN! I'M GLAD I'LL BE KNOWN AS CAPTAIN STUBBS AGAIN. NOT AS THE ANCIENT MARINER!
THE END


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The only POP in the world with a center of delicious Tootsie Roll
THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE . . .



Dear Editor: Many times, I've seen BATMAN and ROBIN capture criminals who use super-weapons. How come they just destroy these weapons or keep them in their TROPHY ROOM? Wouldn't they be better off using them to fight crime?

Bob Slater, Cincinnati Ohio

(Most criminal super-weapons are much too dangerous and destructive. BATMAN and ROBIN fight crime, using weapons that don't risk lives.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: What happens if BATMAN and ROBIN are summoned to a crime scene while Dick Grayson is in school?

Bonnie Thorpe, Grand Rapids, Mich.

(While Dick is in school, BATMAN handles the case alone. As soon as Dick is free, he switches to ROBIN, contacts BATMAN by bat-radio then joins forces with him.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: When are you planning to have Professor Nichole use his time machine to send BATMAN and ROBIN on another adventure in the past?

Danny Evans, Omaha, Neb.

(In the SEPTEMBER issue of DETECTIVE COMICS No 235 the professor sends BATMAN and ROBIN back in time on one of their most exciting quests when they have to uncover "THE SECRET OF THE BEAST PAINTINGS" —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: In the first BAT-GIRL story you have a scene where she and BATWOMAN fift up two grown men as if they were made of straw. How can two females have such strength?

Edward Caiazzo, Staten Island, N Y

(They weren't actually "lifting up" these two criminals. BATWOMAN and BAT-GIRL have been specially trained in JUDO the art of using your opponent's weight and strength AGAINST him. The two female crime-fighters were simply tossing the men in typical JUDO fashion.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: In the BATMAN ANNUAL, you showed all the terrific ways in which BATMAN and ROBIN have used their unique equipment against crime. I have help wondering, though, how are they able to get the *parts* for all their vehicles and secret weapons without revealing how those things are built?

Anton Bridges, Miami, Fla.

(BATMAN and ROBIN never buy all the parts for their equipment in the same place. In that way, nobody knows every single component that goes into their crime-fighting arsenal.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: BAT-HOUND is my favorite animal character. Please let me know when you're featuring him in another BATMAN adventure.

Sid Kane, Rockford, Ill.

(BAT-HOUND seems to be EVERYBODY'S favorite four-legged hero. The famed crime-fighting dog has a number of strange and thrilling surprises in store for you, when you next see him in the OCTOBER issue of BATMAN COMICS No 143 in "BAT-HOUND AND THE CREATURE"—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Is it true that BATMAN once tracked down a criminal with a pair of eyeglasses as his only clue? How was this possible?

Harry Finch, Paterson, N J.

(The crook had dropped his glasses at the scene of the crime BATMAN later analyzed the prescriptions of these glasses in the BAT CAVE'S CRIME LAB, then alerted opticians throughout the city to inform the police if any customer ordering that same prescription.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: BATMAN and ROBIN always have their hands full when some phenomenon drains SUPERMAN of his super-powers. When will they be finding themselves in that situation again?

George Kelsey, Boston, Mass.

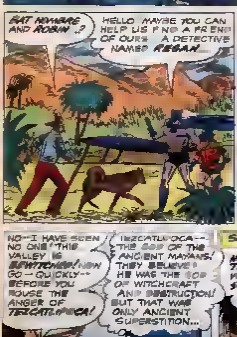
(In the SEPTEMBER issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS No. 130 that's exactly what happens when they join forces with the MAN OF STEEL, to uncover "THE SECRET OF THE FACELESS CREATURES"—Ed.)

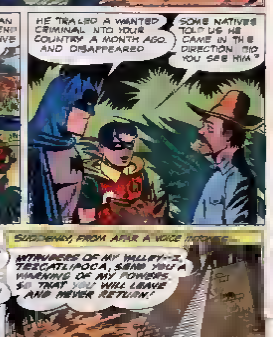

BAT MAN
WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
BOB KANE
DEEP IN THE TRACKLESS CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLE IS A VALLEY WHERE A FANTASTIC BEING SPRINGS FROM THE PAST TO COMMAND MEN BY FEAR! IT IS HERE THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER TRY TO SOLVE THE WEIRD MYSTERY AND FREE THE NATIVES WHO WERE PRISONERS OF THE
RULER OF THE BEWITCHED VALLEY
LOOK - LOOK UPON THE ENEMIES OF TEZCATLIPOCA FOR THE LAST TIME- FOR THEY NOW WILL BE SACRIFICED TO THE GIANT JAGUAR AND FLYING SERPENT!

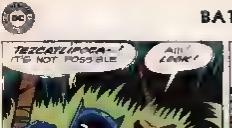

SOMEWHERE OVER CENTRAL AMERICA THE BAT-PLANE REACHES ITS DESTINATION
THERE! A ROBIN-- JUST AS THE NATIVES PREDICTED IT--A MAYAN TEMPLE IN A HIDDEN VALLEY! I'LL SET DOWN I HEAR THAT SHEPHERD


BAT MESSAGE AND ROBIN ?
HELLO MAYBE YOU CAN HELP US FIND A FRIEND OF OURS A DETECTIVE NAMED REGAN

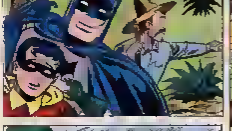

HE TRAILED A WANTED CRIMINAL INTO YOUR COUNTRY A MONTH AGO AND DISAPPEARED
SOME NATIVES TOLD US HE CAME IN THE DIRECTION "TIO YOU SEE HIM"


NO--I HAVE SEEN NO ONE! THIS VALLEY IS SUPERSTITIOUS! GO -- QUICKLY -- BEFORE YOU ROUSE THE ANGER OF TESCATLIPOCA!
TESCATLIPOCA -- THE GOD OF THE ANCIENT MAYANS! THEY BELIEVE HE WAS THE GOD OF WITCHCRAFT AND DESTRUCTION! BUT THAT WAS ONLY ANCIENT SUPERSTITION...

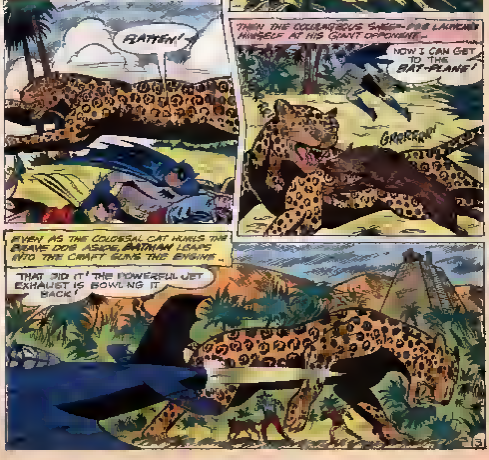

SUDDENLY FROM AFAR A VOICE BOOMS...
INTRUDERS OF MY VALLEY--I, TESCATLIPOCA, SEND YOU A WARNING OF MY POWERS SO THAT YOU WILL LEAVE AND NEVER RETURN!


TEZCATLIPOCA--! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE
AIN'T LOOK!


A JAGUAR--OF GIANT SIZE! LOOK OUT! IT'S SPRINGING!

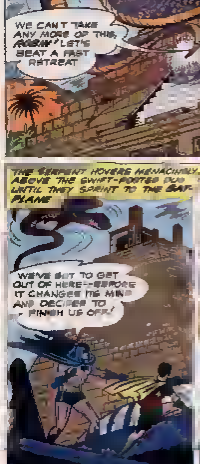

FLATTEN!


THEN THE COLOSSAL BEAST HURLS HIMSELF AT HIS GIANT OPPONENT...
NOW I CAN GET TO THE BAT-PLANE!
GHRRRRR!

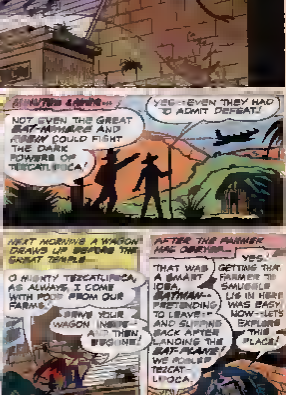

EVEN AS THE COLOSSAL CAT HURLS THE BRAVE DOG ASIDE, BATMAN LEAPS INTO THE CRAFT GUNS THE ENGINE...
THAT DID IT! THE POWERFUL JET EXHAUST IS BOWLING IT BACK!


THEN, THE SNARLING BEAST BOUNDS OFF--
HERE'S THE BRAVE FELLOW WHO REALLY DESERVES THE CREDIT! IF HE HADN'T DISTRACTED THE JAGUAR I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT!
BOY! YOU SURE GOT US OUT OF A JAM!
FROM OTHER INHABITANTS FLOCK TO THE SCENE--
IT WAS TEZCATLIPOCA'S POWER THAT MADE THE JAGUAR A GIANT! PLEASE GO BEFORE YOU ARE DOOMED LIKE ALL OF US IN THIS VALLEY!
IF ALL OF YOU ARE SO AFRAID OF TEZCATLIPOCA WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE?
HE HAS DECLARED HIMSELF OUR RULER--AND DEMANDS WE FARM THE VALLEY AND MAKE HIM FOOD FOR TRIBUTE! SHOULD WE TRY TO LEAVE HE WOULD SEND UNKNOWN TERRORS UPON US! BUT YOU--YOU MUST GO
BUT BATMAN ISN'T EASILY DISCOURAGED
COME ON, ROBIN--I WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS PLACE.
GOLLY! LOOKS SO--OLD AND CREEPY!
AS THEY MOUNT THE STEEP STEPS--
FOOLS! YOU WERE WARNED OF MY POWERS! NOW THIS CREATURE I CREATED WILL PUT FEAR INTO YOUR HEARTS!
OWEOOSH! A FLYING SERPENT!
POWERFUL WINGS BEAT AT THE CAPED CRUSE-FIGHTING PAIR, HURLING THEM BACKWARDS
4


BUT THEY HOLD ON DESPERATELY UNTIL THE MONSTER LASHES OUT WITH ITS TERRIBLE TAIL
WE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS, ROBIN! LET'S BEAT A FAST RETREAT


THE SERPENT HOVERS MENACINGLY ABOVE THE SWIFT-FORTED DUO UNTIL THEY SCRAMBLE TO THE BAT-PLANE
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE—BEFORE IT CHANGES ITS MIND AND DECIDES TO FINISH US OFF!


MEANWHILE BACK AT THE CAMP...
NOT EVEN THE GREAT BAT-MASTERS AND ROBIN COULD FIGHT THE DARK POWERS OF TEXCATLIPOCA!
YES—EVEN THEY HAD TO ADMIT DEFEAT!


NEXT MORNING A WAGON DRAWS UP BEFORE THE GREAT TEMPLE...
O MIGHTY TEXCATLIPOCA, AS ALWAYS, I COME WITH GIFTS FROM OUR FARMS.
DRIVE YOUR WAGON INSIDE—AND THEN RUSH IN!
AFTER THE FARMER HAD OBEYED...
YES...!
THAT WAS A SMART IDEA, BATMAN—PRETENDING TO LEAVE—AND SLIPPING BACK AFTER ALONE! THE BAT-PLANE! WE ROBBED TEXCATLIPOCA
GETTING THE FARMER TO SMUGGLE US IN HERE WAS EASY! NOW—LET'S EXPLORE THIS PLACE!


AS THEY SAW A WEIRD, SHE-CAT!
THE GIANT JAGUAR AND WINGED SERPENT FROM BATMAN! QUICK—OUT OF HERE!
BUT TO THE BOY'S ASTONISHMENT, BATMAN WALKS TOWARD THE CREATURES!
I WAS RIGHT
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AND—AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN MOVING! JUST STANDING THERE STARING
AS ROBIN CONTINUES TO BARK, BATMAN CUTS AWAY PART OF THE UNDERSKIN TO REVEA—
WIRES AND GEARS! IT'S A ROBOT!
BEFORE IT ATTACKED US, WE WERE STANDING IN THE WIND—AND ITS SCENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED TO THE SHEEP DOG. BUT THE DOG DIDN'T BARK. WHY? BECAUSE ROBOTS HAVE NO SCENT!
THEN, OPENING INTO ANOTHER ROOM—
RUN, BATMAN AND ROBIN? HOW DID YOU GET IN, OAF?
JUST AS I EXPECTED! "THE CATALEPOCA" IS A FAKE, TOO!
HELP! HELP!
6

IN ANSWER TO THE CRY FOR THEIR SHAMAN CAME "THE SCUM" ...

GRAB 'EM! KNOCK 'EM OUT!

BATMAN AND ROBIN, EH? THIS IS A PLEASURE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

OUTNUMBERED, THE GALLANT CRIME-FIGHTERS FALL BEFORE THE SURPRISE ATTACK, AND BURN...

REGAN!

SORRY YOU GOT INTO THIS BECAUSE OF ME, BATMAN!

WHO IS THE MAN POSING AS TEKCATLIPOCA?

A RENEGADE SCIENTIST BY THE NAME OF HARTLEY. HE'S USING THIS PYRAMID FOR WANTED CRIMES, WHO PAY HIM PLENTY TO LIVE IT AS A HIDEOUT!

YES—BY USING ROBOTS AND PLAYING ON THE NATIVES' SUPERSTITION, I MAKE THEM AMPLY MY SUCRITE WITH FOOD!

NOW, WHAT WHY DID YOU HAVE US TIED UP HERE?

BATMAN GETS HIS ANSWER PROMPTLY.

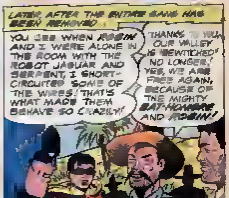
LOOK, LOOK UPON THE ENEMIES OF TEKCATLIPOCA FOR THE LAST TIME FOR NOW THEY WILL BE SACRIFICED TO THE GIANT JAGUAR AND THE FLYING SERPENT!


UNOBSERVED BY THE THRONG, BELOW HE PRESSES SEVERAL BUTTONS ON HIS CONCEALED CONTROL-BELT, AND...
NOW SEE THE FATE THAT BEFALLS THOSE WHO DARE TO DEFY THE GREAT POWERS OF TEZCATLIPOCA!
BUT
WH- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY CONTROLS?
THE POST SMASHED... ROPES ARE LOOSE... NOW'S MY CHANCE!
BATMAN QUICKLY FREES HIMSELF, THEN IN THE CONFUSION...
THEY'RE FREE! HELP!
HERE COMES THE THUNDERING HERD! UP AND AT 'EM! THIS TIME WE'RE READY FOR THEM!
TAKE CARE OF THESE MUGS! I'LL GET HARTLEY!









BATMAN ALSO APPEARS IN DETECTIVE COMICS, AND WITH SUPERMAN IN WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

